

CLAIMS:

1. Device for recording information on a record carrier of a re-writable type by writing marks in a track on a recording layer via a beam of radiation,
 - the recording layer comprising a pre-track pattern (14) indicating the position of the track,
 - 5 - the device comprising
 - a head (22) for providing the beam,
 - recording means (20,28,29) for recording the information in the track according to a predefined recording format for constituting a recording area containing user data preceded by a lead-in zone located at the start of the recording layer, and
 - 10 - formatting means (36) for formatting the record carrier, the formatting comprising
 - writing data on the record carrier indicating that the recording area does not contain user data, and
 - providing on the record carrier status information indicating a size of a contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area in
 - 15 dependence on detecting a pre-existing contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area.
2. Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for said detecting by retrieving status information indicating a size of a contiguously written
- 20 area that extends from the beginning of the recording area.
3. Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for said providing by maintaining status information indicating a size of a contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area in the event of a previously
- 25 written record carrier.
4. Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for said providing by maintaining status information in the lead-in zone relating to de-icing and resetting a control parameter indicating the end of the user data.

5. Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for said detecting by detecting if the record carrier contains written data in the recording area, and if not, setting the size of the pre-existing contiguously written area to zero.
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6. Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for recording a shortened lead-in starting at a shifted starting position beyond a predefined starting position and/or ending at position before a predefined ending position, in particular the predefined recording format being DVD and the shifted starting position being 23.4 mm
- 10 radial.
7. Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for said writing data on the record carrier indicating that the recording area does not contain user data by writing dummy data in at least one predetermined address range used for storing
- 15 file system data, in particular the dummy data being zero data.
8. Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged for said writing dummy data in a first predetermined address range at the beginning of the recording area and/or a second predetermined range at the end of the recording area as the at
- 20 least one predetermined range of addresses, in particular the first and second ranges being predetermined based on address ranges known to be used for file system data by a plurality of file system versions.
9. Method of recording information on a record carrier of a writable type by
- 25 writing marks in a track on a recording layer via a beam of radiation,
- the recording layer comprising a pre-track pattern (14) indicating the position of the track,
 - the method comprising
 - recording the information in the track according to a predefined recording format

30 for constituting a recording area containing user data preceded by a lead-in zone located at the start of the recording layer, and

 - formatting the record carrier, the formatting comprising
 - writing data on the record carrier indicating that the recording area does not contain user data, and

- providing on the record carrier status information indicating a size of a contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area in dependence on detecting a pre-existing contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area.

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10. Computer program product for recording information, which program is operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 9.